

Chao delights in receiving Shelton memento



Sandra Ray, chair of the Alabama School Board, and Dr. Tim Alford of the state workforce development office look on as Secretary Chao inspects her memento.

One of the advantages Shelton has over some other colleges is that when it's time to give away a memento it doesn't have to farm out the work.

A call to the machine-tool technology shop and



Secretary Chao received this expertly machined and engraved college seal paper-weight.

See Memento
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Secretary Chao makes historic visit



Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao ponders the Shelton State industrial electronics program while (L-R) U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, Director of the Workforce Development Center Susan Miller, electronics technology instructor Brett Butler and electronics technology instructor Lee Tucker look on.

Elaine Chao says during campus visit there is nothing quite like the college's relationship with business, industry and workforce development

Official's comments indicate Shelton may have made leap forward in its quest to be a top national college

First of a special summer series

By Dr. Jim Kenny
Publisher

The *Shelton State Courier* has made this one of its important editorial stances: more students and their parents should consider the option of a "technical" program before closing their minds on what it means to have a college education.

This college paper has tried to make this point repeatedly in recent years—and a significant visitor from

Washington has rekindled interest in this point of view.

On Thursday, May 5, a member of the U.S. cabinet, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, visited the Martin campus, starting with the Work Force Development Center on the east end, through the high-tech robotics lab and industrial electronics shop on the bottom floor in the Roland Pugh Center and ending with a luncheon meeting in the cafeteria prepared by the culinary arts and food services stu-

dents.

Along the way Chao oohed and aahed about what she witnessed at the college, beginning with her first view of the campus off Hwy. 69. U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, who made the visit with her, reported her "wow" upon her first view of the edifice. But her positive assessment of Shelton didn't end there.

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Inside The Courier

- A very cool production of *Cats* is in the offing this summer at the Bean... page 4
- When Generals speak... people listen... page 8
- And much more!



Chao From Page 1

She said Shelton State is unique in her experience in the way it combines programs

State Community College's electronics and robotics lab. It has been so inspiring to meet with the faculty and also with the students... the robotic and electronics lab is among the most impressive that I've seen



Labor Secretary Chao, U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, Brenda Truelove of the Tuscaloosa Area Career Center, and Gov. Bob Riley cut the ribbon on the new facility on Skyland Blvd.

and the way it reaches out to business and industry.

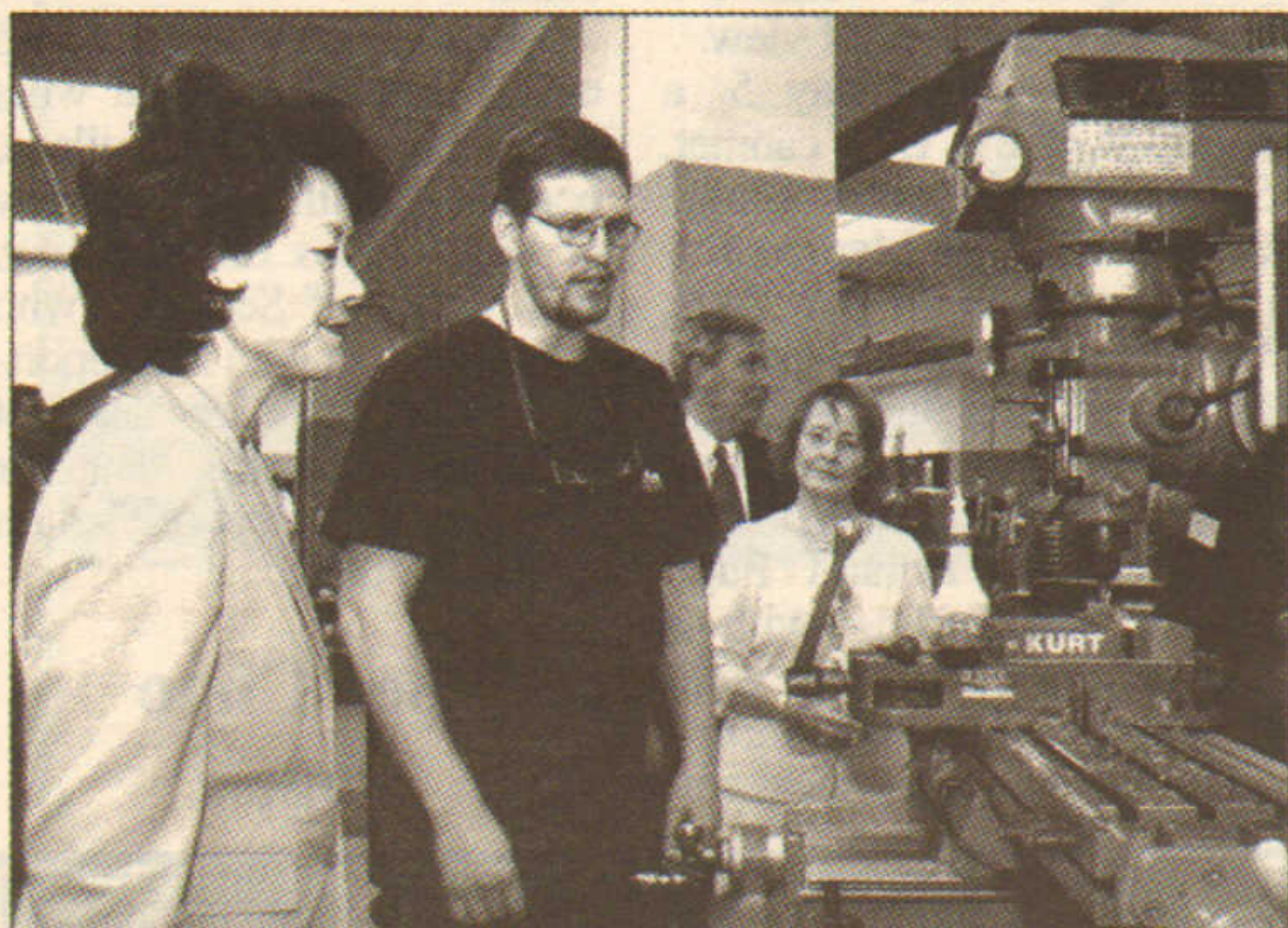
"I have never seen a program like Shelton State's where you combine your work force development and technical programs under one roof," Secretary Chao said during a luncheon of community and industry leaders at the college. "Community colleges do a great job meeting demand in the work force. They know best what a community needs."

During her talk at the luncheon, Secretary Chao

and I've seen a lot of impressive institutions."

Chao said she has traveled a great deal across the U.S. and Shelton's offerings stand out to her. "This lab is a great example of what's happening in community colleges all around the country. They're taking a look at the new jobs being created in their community and designing programs to help workers access these opportunities."

Secretary Chao seemed on the money when she pointed out that workplace is changing



Machine tool technology student David Cunningham talks with Secretary Chao about his work at Shelton State.

demonstrated a keen understanding of not only the needs of United States's workers, but of how colleges like Shelton can meet them. She liked what she saw here. "The highlight of today has been this wonderful tour of Shelton

more rapidly than ever and colleges like Shelton are trying to respond to the new

See Chao
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A cool *Cats* slated for Theatre Tuscaloosa

Theatre Tuscaloosa, in cooperation with Birmingham Summerfest, will present the world's best loved family musical *Cats* for one week only July 19-24 at the Bean-Brown Theatre.

Cats exploded onto the stage as the first megamusical on May 11, 1981. Opening at the New London Theatre in the West End, *Cats* became the longest running musical in the history of British theatre. In 1982 *Cats* opened at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York City, becoming the longest running musical in Broadway history in 1997. *Cats* ended its 18 year run on Sept. 10, 2000.

Five continents, 26 countries, over eight and a half million audience members and twenty five years later, *Cats* is still one of the most popular shows in the history of musical theatre.

Based on T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, and with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Cats* won seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Lighting and Best Costumes. The show opens on a particularly special night of the year when the tribe of Jellicle *Cats* unites to celebrate who they are. They emerge from the darkened landscape into a larger-than-life junkyard, singing of their unique abilities and special qualities.

Cats is directed by

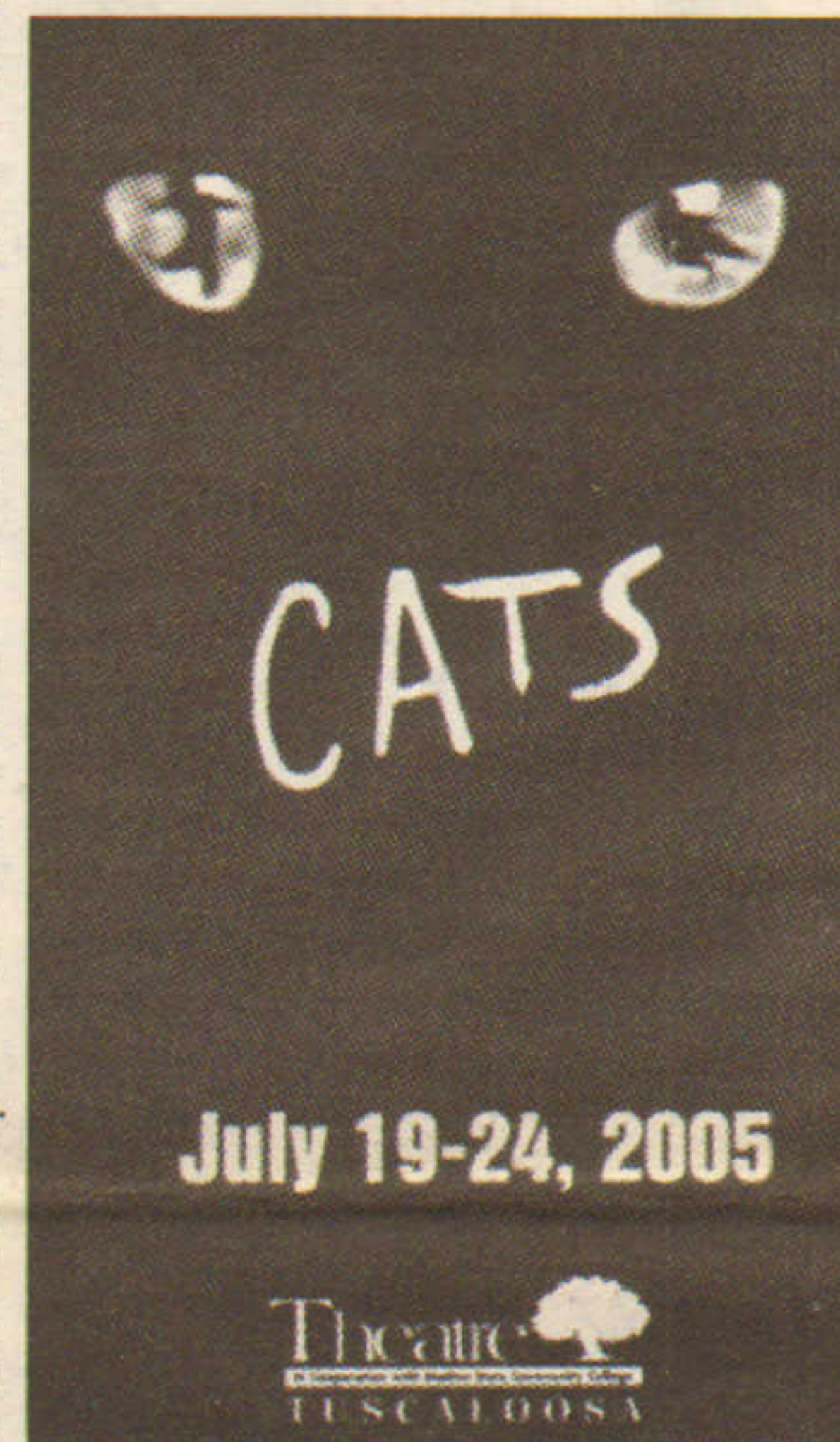
Stephanie Lang, who knows *Cats*. She appeared in the show for three years—first on the national tour and then in the Broadway company—as Cassandra, one of the singing and dancing felines. The Birmingham Summerfest/Theatre Tuscaloosa production is the fourth time Lang has directed

Theatre Tuscaloosa regulars Wheeler Kincaid, Stacy Alley and Kelley Brown. Theatre Tuscaloosa's Charlie Dennis is technical director for the production, Amanda Dodson is stage manager and Andy Fitch, who has designed numerous shows for Theatre Tuscaloosa, is adapting the original scenic design.

Speaking of the collaboration between Theatre Tuscaloosa and Birmingham Summerfest, Artistic Director Michael Carr said, "We have supplied a majority of the technical coordination and Summerfest has focused on the design and performance elements. The end result is truly the best of both worlds—a spectacular set with superb lighting and sensuous costumes forming the environment for 21 of the most extraordinary "cats" you will ever see. I am very proud of the job our staff, students and volunteers have done and look forward to future collaborations with Summerfest and other regional groups."

Performances are scheduled at the Bean-Brown Theatre Tuesday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 20 at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m., Friday, July 22 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 23 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, July 24 at 2 p.m.

All tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling the Theatre Tuscaloosa Box Office at 205/391-2277.



the show.

Kristi Tingle Higginbotham, who has appeared at the Bean-Brown Theatre during the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame, will play Grizabella the Glamour Cat, delighting audiences as she sings the show-stopping number, "Memory."

Also appearing in *Cats* are

Shelton State Courier

Editor

Amy P. Oswalt

Staff Writer

AnTonio Nevels

Sports Writers

Matt Celozzi,

Barret Smith

Publisher

Dr. Jim Kenny

Business Manager

Amy P. Oswalt

The Shelton State Courier is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working

with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Chao From Page 2



Electronics Instructor Brett Butler (foreground) has the undivided attention of his distinguished visitors during their tour of the Shelton robotics lab.

environment. "For today's young people, a high school education is only the beginning. Most of the new jobs

by an employer, or certificate programs like the ones offered by this college. But in today's rapidly changing economy, it



Workforce development Center Director Susan Miller gets some face time with the Secretary as they take in the sights at Shelton.

being created require some kind of post-secondary education; it doesn't have to be a four-year degree. It can be advanced training conducted

is critical for workers to get advanced training and to continually update their skills."

Chao identified some specific areas of work that will be

in high demand in the future. Students wrestling with their educational choices would do well to heed these prognostications. "Some of the industries that the U.S. Department of Labor has identified as high-growth sectors include health care—we need a million nurses by the next seven years—and we need 3.4 million health care workers in the next seven years; biotechnology; aerospace; education; financial services, high-tech manufacturing, retail services; skilled trades and geospatial technology."

A Google search defined the last reference as "skills in organizing and analyzing spatial data using Global Positioning Systems."

A phrase heard frequently that memorable day at Shelton State uttered both by Secretary Chao and Sen. Sessions was "skills gap."

There is a need not only in Alabama but throughout the nation for particular high-tech skills; and though there are plenty of workers among the country's 300 million, not enough of them are trained in the areas in demand.

Shelton State, among other multi-program colleges, has the variety skills-training to

meet the need, but yet the mindset of both students and their parents has not allowed the crucial match-ups to be made.

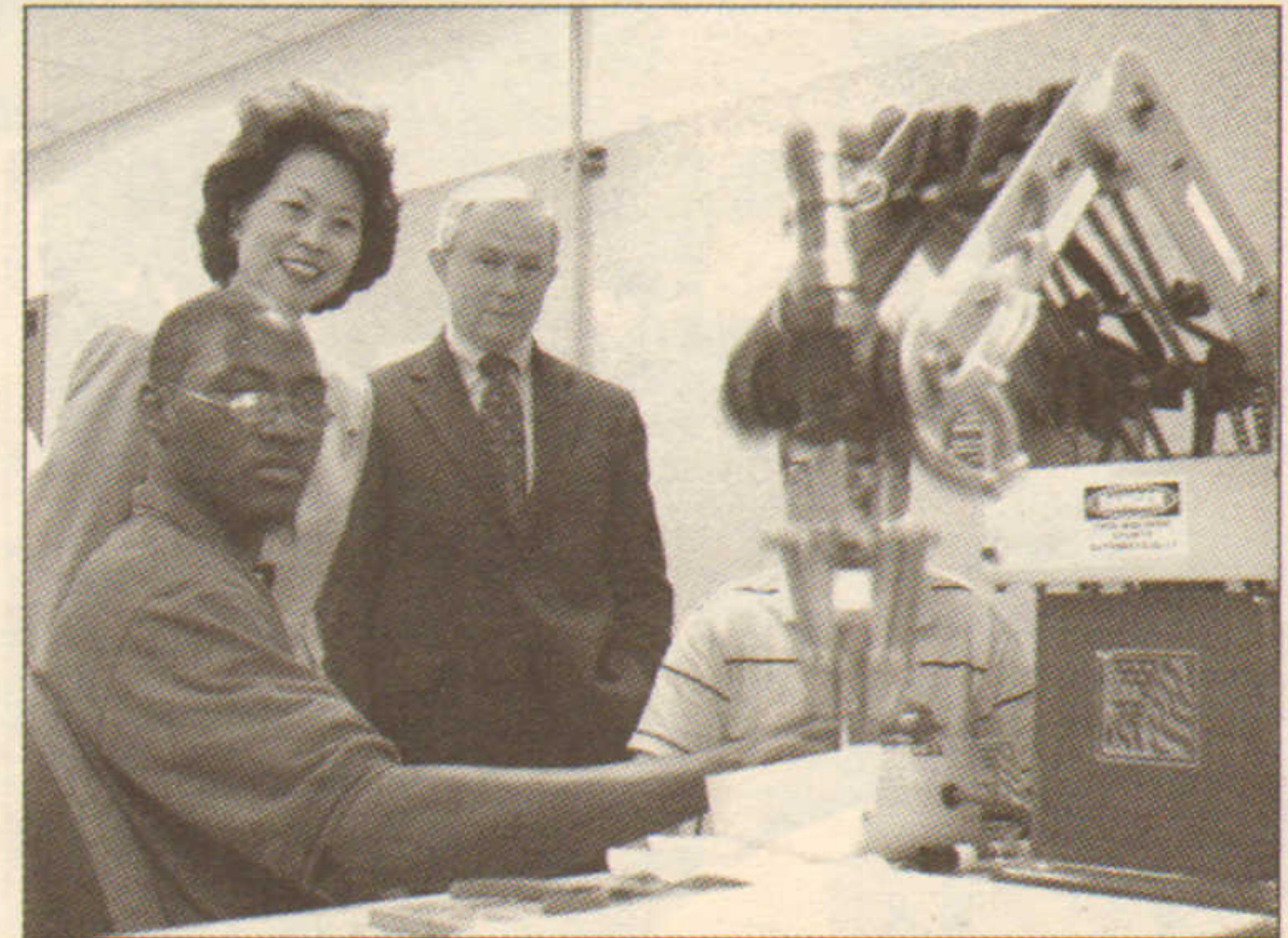
Exploring that gap between what Alabama and America need and what our young people want to pursue is what the *Courier* will consider this summer. We start with a survey of the Shelton students themselves.

About half of the 56 randomly selected students surveyed said they would not consider pursuing a technical

degree or certificate under any circumstances.

The most specific reason cited was a simple one: "it doesn't interest me." Probably though, many of those 50 percent or so of students are the ones each semester who struggle with their study habits and their commitment to their educations, some of them becoming serial withdrawers from college.

See Chao Page 4



Technology student Derrick Scott shows Secretary Chao and Sen. Sessions what a Shelton State robot can do.

Shear Artistry



Ready to share their "shear artistry" are (Back L-R) Sondra Keeton, Adrienne Gann, Melonie Foley, (Front L-R) Brandi Ledbetter, Ashley Lowery, Mary Katherine Price.

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Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao shakes hands with President Rick Rogers and Jan Rogers during her recent visit.

Chao From Page 3

When asked if they would consider taking technical classes in conjunction with their regular academic fare in order to make themselves more attractive to potential employers, 77 percent of the respondents said they would. "If it would help me get a good job, I would do it," said one respondent—and those sentiments seemed uniformly

some restaurants?

You could work your way up slowly by becoming, if you're lucky, an assistant manager at one of the dozens of fast-food chains. But how about earning a culinary arts degree or a food service certificate first? What looks better on a resume: your typical 1.1 years of aimless college education or your specific degree or certificate in a particular field?

Want to be a real-estate mogul a la Donald Trump?

experience in industrial electronics or computer-assisted machine tool technology?

You might dream, for instance, about becoming a millionaire in the beauty and fashion world; however, the practical way of getting started would be a Shelton certificate in, say, wellness or cosmetology.

Yes, there is a skills gap in Alabama and America as Secretary Chao and Sen. Sessions said here recently.

But there doesn't have to be, if you really think about it.

Next Issue: A World of Opportunities

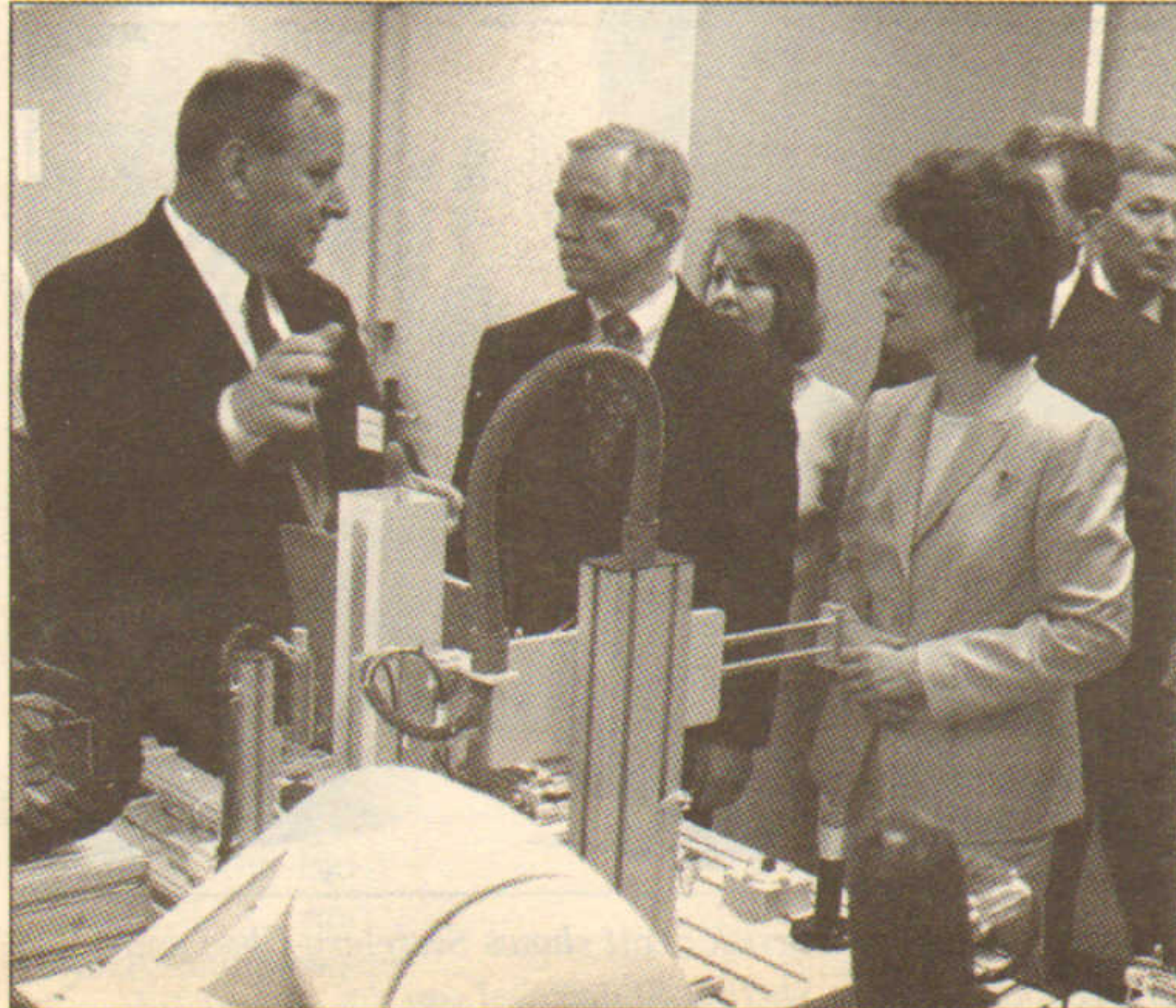
Business Sector Speaks

Ron Aramini, the CEO of Pemco, presented the work force needs at the luncheon from the point of view of private industry. Like the general before him, Aramini is concerned about retirements as the skilled work force in the state begins to retire more and more rapidly.



Individual Attention

Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao took a few moments to chat with every student she encountered in her tour of the technical facilities at Shelton State.



Chancellor of the Alabama Post-Secondary System Dr. Roy Johnson (L) makes a point about the educational opportunities at Shelton to U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

shared by most students.

Perhaps the problem among the students at Shelton and other community college students in the U.S. who have a hard time persevering through to a four-year degree and a solid profession is that they don't understand the connection that can be made between "technical" programs and exciting, well-paying jobs. Want to get rich by owning

How about earning some credentials in electrical technology or drafting or carpentry?

Want to be a player in the fast-growing security field? Shelton offers a degree in paralegal studies and a certificate in criminal justice.

If you want to be a big shot—a "white collar" employee—in industry, why not first think about practical



Machine Tool Technology Director Ronnie Guy makes a point about his program.



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A Very Special Morning and Afternoon

Many dignitaries were on hand at Shelton State to meet and greet the Secretary of Labor—and to soak up the atmosphere and visit with one another. These convivial meetings included (clock-wise) Secretary Chao saying hello to Alabama School Board Chair Sandra Ray; Special Assistant to the President Dr. Cordell Wynn sharing a smile with Dean of Business Services Karen Van Luvender; Northport Mayor Harvey Fretwell expressing greetings from across the river; and Gov. Bob Riley chatting with Workforce Development Center Director Susan Miller.



There you are!

U. S. Sen. Jeff Sessions seemed to have misplaced a governor and a member of the president cabinet for a moment. But there they were, having a quick chat during the grand opening of the workforce office on Skyland Blvd.

From Memento Page 1

Jason Moore and Ronnic Guy is normally all it takes to start producing the college's favorite keepsakes: some finely turned college seal paperweights.

Such was the case during Labor Secretary Elaine Chao's visit to campus.

The machine work was done by students D.J. Faulkner and Hunter Phillips with the engraving by Bryant Halper.

Through Chao, one of these was also sent to Pres. George W. Bush.

The college recently received a presidential thank-you through Development Director Lew Drummond.



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Hill invited to NIH Conference

Gladys D. Hill, Assistant Dean of Health Services at Shelton State has been invited by the National Institutes of Health to participate in its Extramural Associates Program Technical Assistance Regional Workshop entitled "The EA Program 2005: Same Mission different Approach."

The workshop, which is by invitation only, will be held in Huntsville, Alabama September 19-20, 2005. The NIH Extramural Associates Program supports institutions in their endeavor to increase sponsored and developmental research awareness and competence in the biomedical and behavioral sciences.

Hill received a B.S. degree from the University of Alabama and began her career in nursing at West Alabama General Hospital in Northport. After receiving a Masters degree from Mississippi University for Women, she embarked on teaching others the practice of nursing.

The last two decades of her career have been dedicated to nursing education.

From 1984 to 1994, Mrs. Hill taught in the Associate Degree

Nursing Program at Shelton State and in 1994 became Director of the Shelton State Community College Nursing Programs.

She has successfully guided the nursing faculty and staff through several transition periods as the college changed and grew.

A recipient of the "Lamplighter Award," Mrs. Hill is active in the Alabama League for Nursing, the Alabama State Nurses Association, the Alabama Council of Administrators of Professional Nursing Education Programs, and the Alabama Council of Practical

Nursing Educators where she currently serves as President.

She was recently appointed to the Alabama College System Project Q.P.A. Committee for Health Professions, the Nursing Education Advisory Committee and has served on the Advisory Committee for the Alabama Board of Nursing.

Dr. Rick Rogers, president of Shelton State Community College remarked, "We are delighted that Mrs. Hill has been singled out for this national recognition. Her dedication to her field is widely recognized."



Nursing Instructor
Gladys Hill

No increase in community college tuition

The Alabama College System, which includes the state community and technical colleges and Athens State University, will not increase tuition this year.

Tuition and fees at community and technical colleges is \$90 per credit hour. Total tuition and fees for a full-time student at one of Alabama's public two-year colleges is just 59 percent of the average at state four-year institution.

"Community colleges exist to give more people access to higher education. Families need options that make college affordable. We are committed to providing those options and opening doors for students," said Roy Johnson, Chancellor of The Alabama College System.

The STARS agreement guarantees the transfer of credit from community colleges to four-year colleges. That guarantee and low tuition mean students can complete the first two years of a bachelor's degree at just a little more than half the cost of a state university.

Pell grants, scholarships and other financial aid make community colleges even more affordable.

The location of colleges, flexible class schedules and increasing options for distance learning make it possible for many to earn college credit while living and working in their own communities.

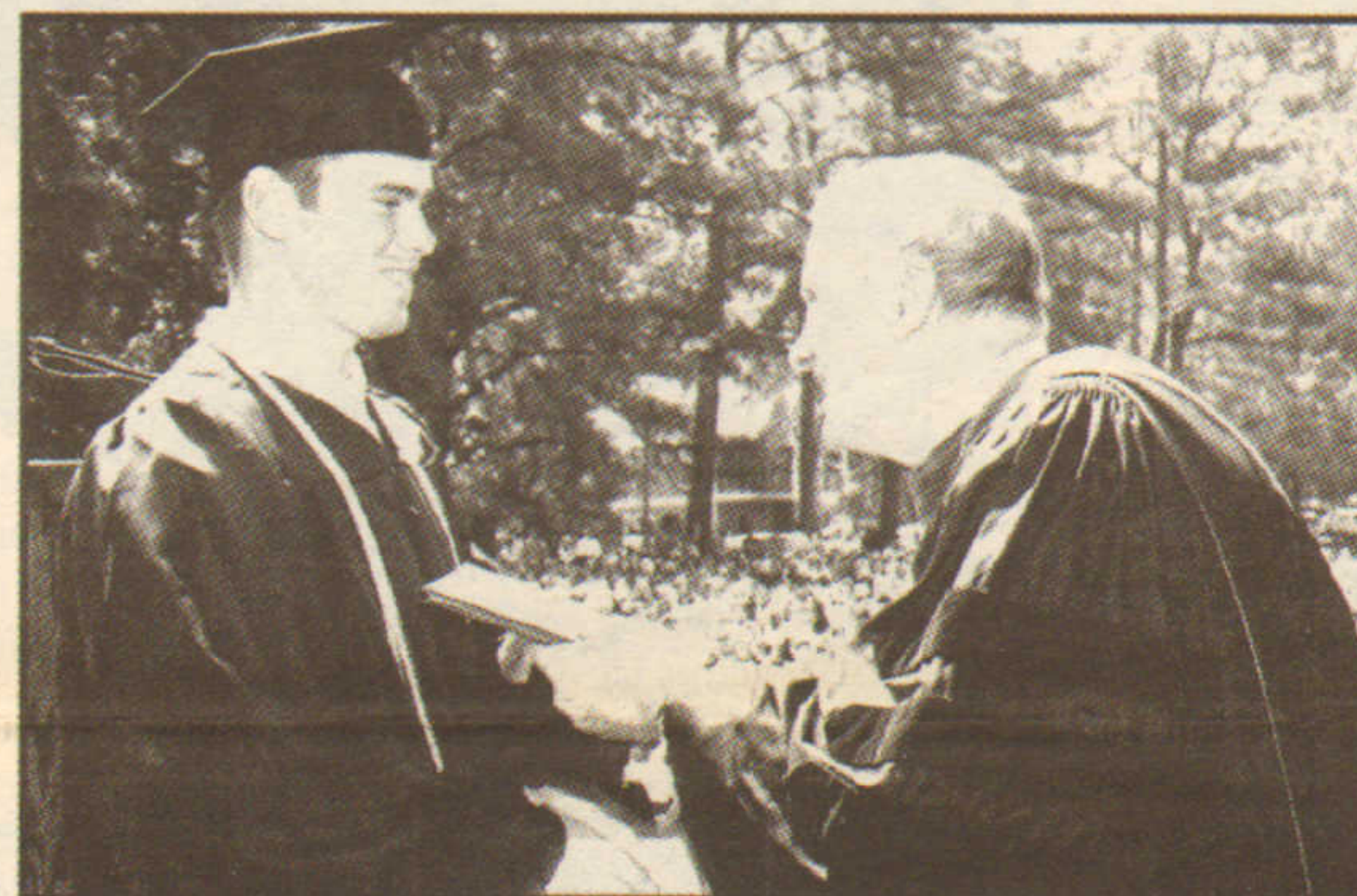
This allows students to save on housing and transportation costs, as well as tuition.

Commencement at Flowerhill, spring 2004



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Automotive scholarships announced

The Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association and the Alabama College System have established a new scholarship program for Alabama students who are interested in pursuing manufacturing careers.

Beginning this fall, 25 AAMA Manufacturing Scholarships will help deserving students prepare for automotive manufacturing careers.

Students pursuing a career/technical education certificate or associate degree in designated programs at Shelton State Community College, or any of The Alabama College System schools, will be eligible to apply. The scholarships will be available on an annual basis, representing a major, long-term investment in technical education and the development of skilled workers.

"Automotive manufacturing has long been an important part of Alabama's economy, but it has grown exponentially in Alabama during the past decade," Ralph Malone, AAMA President and CEO of Triana Industries said. "Because of the increasing importance of this industry to

our economy, AAMA feels that is critical to prepare educated and trained workers who will be important to the industry's future growth. At the same time, we want to encourage Alabama students to take advantage of the career opportunities available in the automotive industry."

"The Alabama College System exists to improve access to education and training that allows Alabamians to find good jobs that fuel the state's economy," said Alabama College System Chancellor Roy Johnson. "The automotive manufacturers in this state create tremendous opportunity. We are honored by the confidence they have in our programs and grateful for this investment in our students."

Preference will be given to those students who demonstrate an interest in automotive manufacturing or automotive manufacturing maintenance.

To qualify, a student must be an Alabama resident who has recently graduated from high school or received a GED and plans to enroll in an automotive manufacturing program at a two-year college

in Alabama as a full-time student. Eligible programs of study at Shelton State Community College include Computer Numerical Control, Industrial Electronics Technology, Industrial Maintenance Technology and Machine Tool Technology.

The AAMA will award 25 scholarships valued at \$1,500 apiece, according to Executive Director Dr. Bernard Schroer.

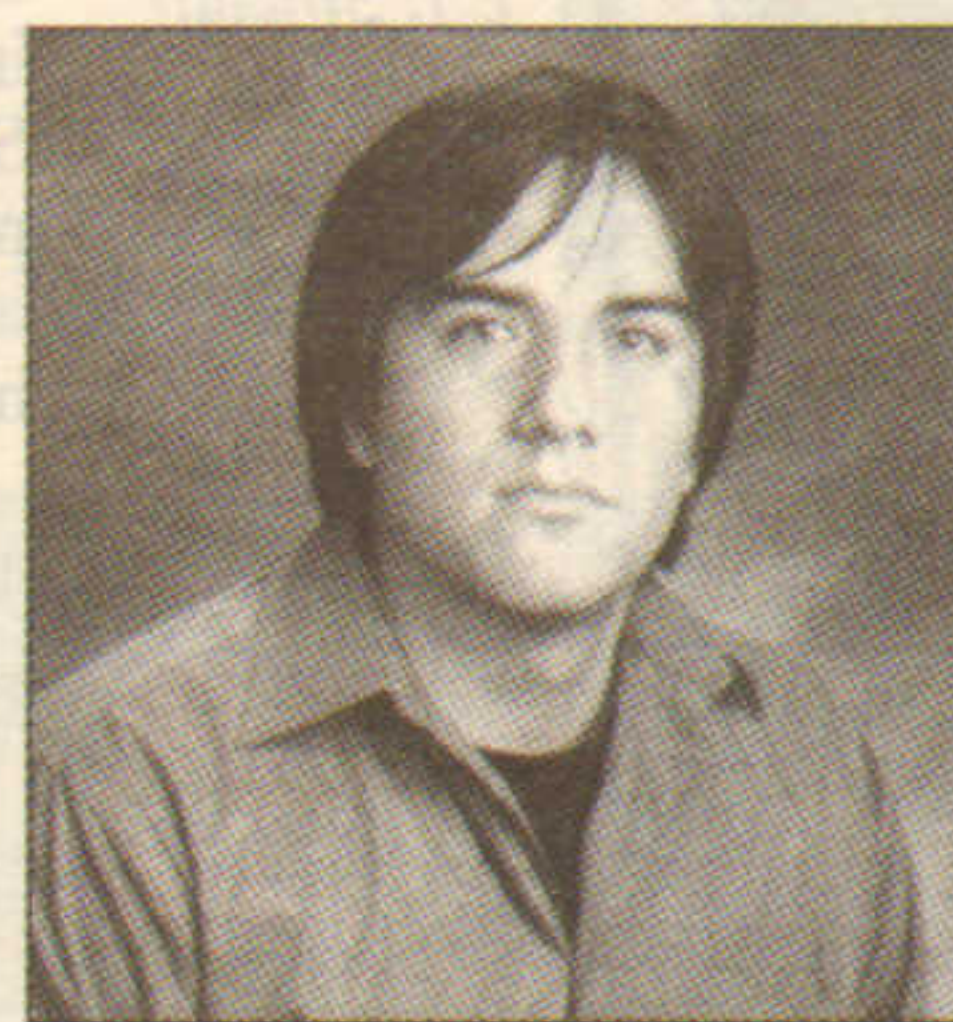
Applications are available at the Office of Financial Aid on Shelton State's Martin Campus, or through the Internet at www.aama.to or www.acs.cc.al.us. The deadline for application is June 30, 2005.

Applications can be completed on line at www.aama.to or mailed to AAMA, 500 Beacon Parkway West, Birmingham, AL 35209.

The association will assess each application and select the top 25 candidates. Applicants will be notified of their selection no later than July 15, 2005.

AAMA was founded in 2001 to promote the growth and development of Alabama's automotive industry.

Top students compete nationally



Johnatan Dillon is one of Shelton State's representatives for the 2005 All-Alabama Academic Team.

The All-Alabama Academic Team representatives from Shelton State for 2005 are Lindsey Thomas and Johnatan Dillon.

In order to be selected for this honor students must excel academically, demonstrate intellectual rigor in their course of study, show academic growth and potential, and use their two year college education to better themselves, their schools and their communities.

These two students had to compete for the All-USA Community & Junior College Academic Team nationally.

These students were recognized at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham on April 7.

The event was hosted by Alabama College System and Phi Theta Kappa. Guests were welcomed by Roy W. Johnson, Chancellor, Dr. Devin Stephenson, Chair All-Alabama Academic Team Board, Mrs. Sandra Ray, President Pro-Tem Board of Education District VII.

The invocation was given by Dr. Humphrey Lee, Interim Regional Director of PTK. Lt. Governor Lucy Baxley was the keynote speaker.

Each student was recognized individually and presented a medallion by the Chancellor. Each college president was on stage to greet their student.



Lindsey Thomas is one of Shelton State's representatives for the 2005 All-Alabama Academic Team.



Friends of Florence feast

In conjunction with nursing profession founder Florence Nightingale's birthday on May 12, nursing students held a nurse week picnic May 5 for the first time on Shelton's campus. Approximately 200 students participated from each program including the nursing assistants, practical nursing and associate degree nursing as well as their families and college staff.

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Visiting general stresses need for skilled workers in military areas



Brig. Gen. E.J. Sinclair makes a point about developing skilled workers to Secretary Chao during the luncheon meeting at the college.

When Big. Gen. E.J. Sinclair took the podium during Secretary Chao's visit to Shelton State everyone in the room could see the fire in his eyes and hear the urgency in his voice.

With the military, a shortage of trained workers can quickly become a life-or-death matter.

So it is at Ft. Rucker in south Alabama where the general oversees a huge work force with more than 7,000 civilian

employees, the fifth largest employer in the state.

The general said more than half of that number are licensed aircraft mechanics who came from the local area, "and we could not do our business without them." The general worried that more than half "of all our employees are up to retire in the next three to five years."

The general expressed gratitude to Gov. Riley who recently saw that aviation equipment

was updated at the nearby community college, but when it came to construction projects at the base he needed plumbers and electricians as much as anything.

Sinclair's comments underscored in general the basic hard work of preparing the hands-on craftsmen of tomorrow.

To the general, producing competent, industrious American workers is more than good business: it's a matter of patriotism.

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